

## New Faces at DWD

DWD announced the arrival of three new employees. Michael Draper, deputy commissioner for economic development; Jeff Harris, the agency press secretary; and Jonathan Bond, deputy commissioner for policy, planning and evaluation.

Draper oversees business development, labor market information, the helpline, oversight and the workforce transition division. Bond oversees the department's federal Workforce Investment Act funding, program evaluation efforts, policy development and interaction with federal agencies and the state's Workforce Investment Board.

Harris serves as DWD's lead spokesperson and heads the agency's communication efforts throughout the state.

## Employment Trends

### December Unemployment Rate

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 4.9 percent. This is five-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate of 5.4 percent.

3,031,400 million Hoosiers were employed during December.

Indiana's December unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 6.7 percent; Ohio, 5.5 percent; Illinois, 6.3 percent; and Kentucky at 5.1 percent.

### January Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 1-3-04	.....	96,934
Week of 1-10-04	....	103,119
Week of 1-17-04	....	92,891
Week of 1-24-04	....	85,245

## Indiana@Work

Indiana@Work requires only state government administrative action, and combines existing Energize Indiana federal funding of \$5 million a year for five years, as well as nearly \$5 million a year for five years in state funds from the Department of Commerce training funds.

INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT



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# Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

## Breaking News

### Indiana@Work complements successful partnerships

Gov. Joe Kernan traveled to the Marion campus of Ivy Tech State College to congratulate local business and government leaders for their workforce development and job growth efforts. At the same time, he encouraged them to look into the administration's new Indiana@Work initiative, to see how it could fit into their economic development plans.

"Indiana@Work, will assist both jobseekers and companies, essentially by helping them find each other and then providing training dollars to bridge any skills gaps," Kernan said. "And down the line, the program will also provide those on the job hunt with 'e-resumes' that outline worker's skills and can be updated regularly."

The governor also praised local leaders for their pursuit of DWD grants through the Advance Indiana program. DWD awarded the community grants in 2002 and 2003, totaling more than \$137,000, to train certified nurses assistants to be Licensed Practical Nurses.

### Awards for Excellence celebrates its 20th year

Gov. Joe Kernan proclaimed February 8-14 as Career and Technical Education Week. One of the many events that took place during the week was the Indiana Career and Technical Education Awards for Excellence. Held in the Government Center, awards were presented by DWD Commissioner Alan Degner and Marnia Kennon, chair of the Indiana Commission on Career and Technical Education. Awards were presented to partnerships, guidance and personnel services, programs and individual students. Ten secondary students and ten postsecondary students from around the state were recognized.

Earlier in the day the awardees attended a luncheon where they heard from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Suellen Reed. A reception followed featuring an array of food prepared by the culinary arts students from Vincennes University. The Indiana House of Representatives read a House resolution recognizing those honored. This was the twentieth anniversary for the Awards for Excellence.

### Kernan awards grant to help put Hoosiers to work in East Central Indiana

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development awarded \$258,822 to the East Central Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Inc., from the agency's "Energizing Indiana's Workforce" grant funds. The East Central WIB, representing Blackford, Delaware, Henry, Jay and Randolph counties, will use its grant to increase the regions's capacity to develop and attract advanced manufacturing jobs.

With the grant, the East Central WIB will create more awareness of career opportunities and the educational requirements needed to be successful in the advanced manufacturing field. Working with Ivy Tech State College, the board will improve its distance learning system and upgrade local WorkOne computer labs to create virtual campuses and learning labs in rural communities, bringing training opportunities closer to the area's workforce.

"Through the efforts of our departments of Workforce Development and Commerce, Indiana has consistently focused on improving the skills of our workers," Kernan said. And today, we have yet another tool to assist them, as well as our businesses across the state - Indiana@Work."